



CITY COUNCIL STAFF REPORT

ITEM NO. 7.4

DATE: June 22, 2026
TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council
FROM: Carl Brown, Public Works Director
SUBJECT: Hearing to approve the City's 2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

At the conclusion of the public hearing, it is recommended that the City Council adopt a resolution:

1. Approving the 2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan.
2. Authorize transmittal to the California Department of Water Resources.
3. Authorize the City Manager to take appropriate and necessary actions to carry out the purpose and intent of this Resolution and to incorporate any necessary amendments as stipulated and directed by the State Department of Water Resources.

SUMMARY

Staff updated the Livermore Municipal Water (LMW) Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) pursuant to the Urban Water Management Act, and as specifically required by California Water Code section 10632. The WSCP includes the following major components:

1. Water supply reliability analysis over a 5-year period from 2026 to 2030.
2. A six-stage categorization of water shortage levels and corresponding demand reduction measures to cover more than 50% of supply shortage.
3. Financial consequences of actions during shortages.

Overall, the LMW 2025 WSCP demonstrates that Livermore has a reliable water system over the next five years. In addition, LMW can implement a variety of measures during water shortage stages to reduce water demands.

DISCUSSION

The City of Livermore retained Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, Inc. to update its Water Shortage Contingency Plan (WSCP) per requirements of the Urban Water Management Act, Section 10632 of the California Water Code. The purpose of this WSCP is to identify six stages of water shortage and provide corresponding actions. A summary of the major topics in the current update is presented below.

Water Supply Reliability Analysis (Chapter 2)

As stated in the LMW's 2025 UWMP, the water supply reliability analysis considers "normal", "single-dry", and "five-year drought" scenarios. The analysis in the UWMP documents that LMW has sufficient supply to meet normal and dry-year demands through 2050 except for two drought events in 2049 and 2054. The short-term water shortage risk is evaluated through the Drought Risk Assessment (DRA).

The DRA requires suppliers to assess water supply reliability over a five-year period from 2026 to 2030 that examines water supplies, water uses, and the resulting water supply reliability. It is expected that Zone 7 will be able to meet all treated water requests during this scenario. Therefore, no WSCP actions are anticipated to be implemented. In the case of a shortfall in supply, the use reduction and supply augmentation measures described in Chapter 5 of the WSCP are available for implementation.

Annual Water Supply and Demand Assessment Procedures (Chapter 3)

New provisions in Water Code Section 10632.1 require that urban water suppliers conduct an annual water supply and demand assessment ("Annual Assessment"), on or before July 1 of each year, to be submitted to the Department of Water Resources (DWR).

Staff presents the five-year treated water request to Zone 7 in the July timeframe each year. Around January, Zone 7 provides a preliminary treated water request response that determines if this allocation can accommodate the needs of its retailers. If it is determined that Zone 7 cannot provide the requested volume of water, staff will determine the percentage difference in demand versus supply, and will request that the City Council enact a shortage stage. This can be in conjunction with any demand reductions required by the State of California and/or Zone 7. In April of each year, Zone 7 finalizes the available water supply to each of its users for the coming year based on State Water Project allocations and other factors. This final determination informs LMW if it is in a shortage scenario, and the results will be reported by LMW to the DWR by July 1st of each year.

Six Standard Water Shortage Stages (Chapter 4)

There are six standard water shortage levels corresponding to progressively increasing estimated shortage conditions (up to 10-, 20-, 30-, 40-, 50- percent, and greater than 50% shortage compared to the normal reliability condition). Besides drought, other events that can trigger a water shortage event are earthquakes, water system failures, fire, contamination, regional power outage, state restrictions, etc.

The Livermore City Council may enact any stage of the Water Shortage Contingency Plan by adopting a resolution in response to local or regional water supply conditions. The Plan may be enacted based on conditions including:

- A formal water supply shortage notification by the Zone 7 Water Agency
- A collective recommendation of the Tri-Valley Water Retailers Group
- An actual or potential local water supply restriction or emergency affecting the LMW system
- A proclamation from the City of Livermore declaring a local water supply emergency

Water Shortage Response Actions by Shortage Stage (Chapter 5)

The City will use a variety of methods through different stages to achieve more than 50% reduction in water demands. One of the most important and earliest strategies will be an expanded public education and outreach campaign. During past drought events, public information campaigns such as shared websites, development and distribution of social media, radio advertisements, newspaper outreach

materials, and providing recycled water to residents for watering landscape have successfully reduced water consumption by more than 30%.

Other demand reduction measures include:

- Limit landscape irrigation to specific days and times
- Require automatic shut-off hoses
- Improve customer usage data review and alerts
- Prohibit use of potable water for construction and dust control
- Require covers for pools and spas
- Require commercial kitchens to use pre-rinse spray valves
- Restrict or prohibit runoff from landscape irrigation
- Prohibit use of potable water for washing hard surfaces
- Prohibit vehicle washing except at facilities using recycled or recirculating water
- Require swimming pools to be leak proof
- Prohibit turf or lawn irrigation
- Restrict water use for decorative water features, such as fountains
- Require restaurants only serve water upon customer request
- Implement conservation rates

City staff will be able to issue administrative citations to customers violating mandatory prohibitions when necessary, but will provide education before enforcement.

FISCAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE IMPACTS

Adopting this Water Shortage Contingency Plan will not have any new financial impacts on the water enterprise fund as the current “conservation” rates have been designed to capture appropriate funding in years of mandatory conservation measures. Future cost of service studies will further refine “conservation” rates to account for future conditions.

COMMUNITY PILLAR

1: A Safe Community that Thrives

GOAL

11: Operate and maintain municipal water systems that provide safe, efficient delivery of potable and recycled water, collect and treat wastewater, and comply with all federal, state, and local regulations.

ATTACHMENTS

- [1. Resolution](#)
- [2. Exhibit A - 2025 Water Shortage Contingency Plan](#)

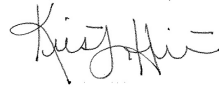
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